

Press Release

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State Releases 1999 Population Estimates

Utah's population reached just over 2,121,000 persons in 1999, according to the Utah Population Estimates Committee. This is an increase of approximately 38,500 persons (slightly smaller than the population of Bountiful, Utah) or 1.9% over the 1998 estimate of approximately 2,082,500. With the national population increasing by an estimated 1.0% during 1999, the pace of population growth in Utah continues to be roughly twice that of the nation. Utah is expected to once again rank among the nation's fastest growing states when population estimates for all 50 states are released by the Bureau of the Census later this month.

The state's growth during 1999 is composed of the highest number of births (45,434), second highest number of deaths (11,636), and resultant largest natural increase of 33,798 (the number of births minus the number of deaths) ever recorded in state history. Net migration during 1999 of approximately 4,800 was higher than expected and is more than three times the level estimated during 1998 of 1,271. While many economic indicators show the economy has moderated slightly since last year, demographic indicators such as public and private school enrollment, Mormon church membership, tax exemptions, building permits, and utility connections suggest the population increased at a slightly higher rate than last year because of higher natural increase and net migration.

Among Utah's 29 counties, the most rapid growth occurred in counties within or adjacent to the northern metropolitan region, counties in the southwest portion of the state, and the very small counties of Piute and Daggett. The highest rates of population growth during 1999, ranked in descending order, are as follows:

Tooele (8.0%)
Piute (4.0%)
Utah (3.8%)
Washington (3.6%)
Daggett (3.4%)
Iron (3.4%)
Beaver (3.3%)
Wayne (3.2%)
Summit (3.1%)
Wasatch (3.0%)

Expanding Urban Area

Interestingly, the populations in Tooele, Utah, Wasatch, Summit, Morgan, and Davis continue to expand quite rapidly. This growth illuminates the degree to which the Wasatch Front and Back are

becoming increasingly more urbanized. People in these counties are in close proximity to urban services, but are still able to enjoy many of the desirable characteristics found in a rural setting.

County Highlights

Tooele County

Tooele County was the fastest growing county in the state with a sizzling 8.0% rate of growth. At this rate, Tooele County grew four times as fast as the state average of 1.9% and twice as fast as the second fastest growing county (Piute). Estimated net in-migration to the county of approximately 2,000 people was the highest recorded in the county in over 50 years.

Utah County

The population in Utah County, estimated at approximately 353,100, increased at nearly twice the rate of the state. It is the state's second largest county and the third fastest growing county during 1999. This is an unusual ranking for such a large county. For the fourth year in a row, Utah County experienced more net in-migration than any county in the state. An estimated 4,800 more people migrated into the county than moved away.

Salt Lake County

Approximately 40% of the state resides in Salt Lake County with a 1999 population of roughly 843,300. While a significant amount of residential building permits were authorized in the county during 1998 (the relevant year for 1999 population estimates because of the time it takes to build a home), the growth in permits was the fewest since 1993. An estimated 5,400 more people reside in the county in 1999 than 1998, but all of this is attributable to births since an estimated 7,000 more people migrated out of the county during 1999 than moved in.

Beaver, Washington, and Iron County

Southwest Utah continues to generate very rapid rates of population growth. Three of the seven fastest growing counties in the state – Beaver, Washington, and Iron – are all located in Southwest Utah. Of these, Washington regained its claim as the fastest growing county in the region after surrendering that distinction temporarily to Iron County last year. With a 1999 rate of growth of 3.6%, however, growth in Washington County has slowed significantly from the 8.0% rates recorded as recently as four and five years ago.

Carbon, Emery, Millard, and San Juan County

The population in Carbon, Emery, Millard, and San Juan County declined slightly during 1999. The economies in these counties are energy-dependent and population change frequently reflects the relative performance of the coal, oil, and natural gas industries. Extremely low oil prices, which lasted through mid-year 1999, coupled with dramatically increasing productivity in Utah's coal mining industry, explain the lack of population growth in these counties and the suppressed growth in the other energy-dependent counties of Uintah and Duchesne.

Utah Population Estimates Committee

The Utah Population Estimates Committee is a statutory committee charged with preparing the official population estimates for the State of Utah. The Committee's primary data sources are vital statistics (from birth and death certificates); school enrollment; Mormon membership; and income tax returns. When preparing the estimates the Committee also considers job growth, Bureau of the Census population estimates, utility connections, and building permits. Committee membership includes representatives from key data providers and others knowledgeable in the methods used to prepare population estimates. The Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget staffs the Committee.

Attachments:

Utah Population and Components of Change: 1990-1999

Utah Population by County: 1998 and 1999

Utah Population Growth Rates by County: 1998-1999 (Map)

Utah Population and Components of Change: 1990-1999

Year	July 1st Population	Percent Change	Increase	Net Migration**	Natural Increase	Fiscal Year Births	Fiscal Year Deaths
1990	1,729,000	1.3%	23,000	-3,707	26,707	35,830	9,123
1991	1,775,000	2.7%	46,000	19,235	26,765	36,194	9,429
1992	1,822,000	2.6%	47,000	19,763	27,237	36,796	9,559
1993	1,866,000	2.4%	44,000	17,317	26,683	36,738	10,055
1994	1,916,000	2.7%	50,000	22,788	27,212	37,623	10,411
1995	1,959,351	2.3%	43,351	14,868	28,483	39,064	10,581
1996*	2,002,400	2.2%	43,049	13,555	29,494	40,495	11,001
1997	2,048,753	2.3%	46,353	15,090	31,263	42,512	11,249
1998(r)	2,082,502	1.6%	33,749	1,271	32,478	44,126	11,648
1999(p)	2,121,053	1.9%	38,551	4,753	33,798	45,434	11,636

(p)=preliminary

(r)=revised

*In 1996, the Utah Population Estimates Committee changed its convention on rounded estimates so that it now publishes unrounded estimates. Accordingly, the estimates for 1995 and thereafter are not rounded.

**Previous to 1995, net migration figures are based on rounded population estimates to maintain consistency with the historical database.

Sources: Utah Population Estimates Committee and Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Records

Utah Population by County: 1998 and 1999

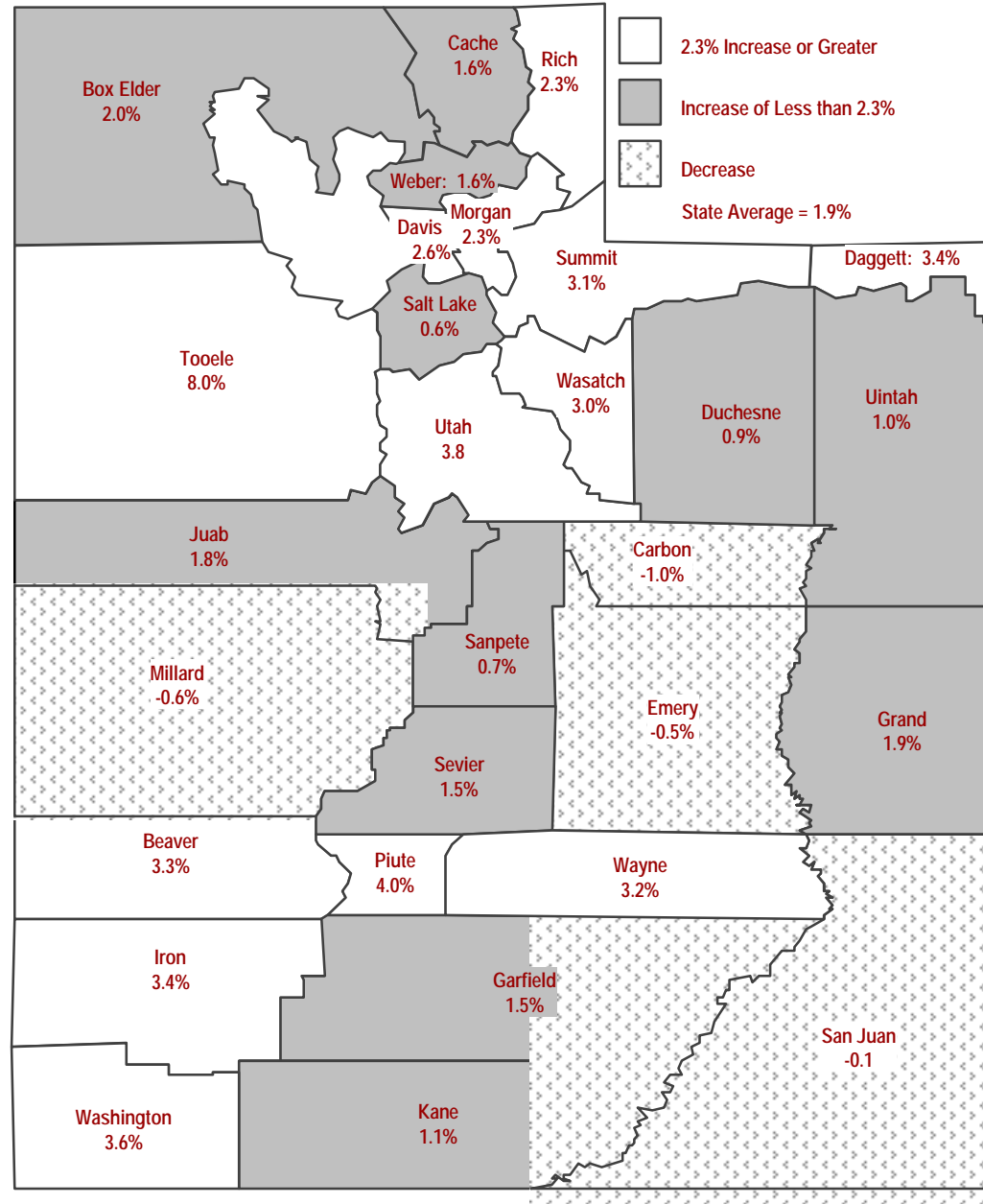
District/County	July 1, 1998(r)	July 1, 1999(p)	% Change 1998-99
Bear River	128,787	131,007	1.7%
Box Elder	40,927	41,732	2.0%
Cache	86,067	87,440	1.6%
Rich	1,793	1,835	2.3%
Wasatch Front	1,290,570	1,307,838	1.3%
Davis	229,393	235,438	2.6%
Morgan	7,101	7,262	2.3%
Weber	183,014	186,020	1.6%
Salt Lake	837,860	843,271	0.6%
Tooele	33,202	35,847	8.0%
Mountainland	379,289	393,306	3.7%
Summit	25,669	26,459	3.1%
Utah	340,303	353,136	3.8%
Wasatch	13,317	13,711	3.0%
Central	63,923	64,553	1.0%
Juab	7,973	8,120	1.8%
Millard	12,029	11,959	-0.6%
Piute	1,581	1,644	4.0%
Sanpete	21,268	21,408	0.7%
Sevier	18,612	18,884	1.5%
Wayne	2,460	2,538	3.2%
Southwestern	125,163	129,297	3.3%
Beaver	5,693	5,881	3.3%
Garfield	4,482	4,550	1.5%
Iron	30,495	31,518	3.4%
Kane	6,078	6,144	1.1%
Washington	78,415	81,204	3.6%
Uintah Basin	39,739	40,147	1.0%
Daggett	713	737	3.4%
Duchesne	14,256	14,381	0.9%
Uintah	24,770	25,029	1.0%
Southeastern	55,031	54,905	-0.2%
Carbon	21,649	21,422	-1.0%
Emery	10,918	10,862	-0.5%
Grand	8,895	9,060	1.9%
San Juan	13,569	13,561	-0.1%
State	2,082,502	2,121,053	1.9%

(r)=revised

(p)=preliminary

Source: Utah Population Estimates Committee.

Utah Population Growth Rates by County: 1998 to 1999



Source: Utah Population Estimates Committee